

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 211038Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9638

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR PO

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW WITH SPINOLA MAY 20

SUMMARY: DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT SPINOLA
GAVE ASSURANCES THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL
SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT PORTUGAL WAS HEADING
DOWN THE PATH OF COMMUNISM AND EXPRESSED HIS CON-
FIDENCE THAT PERMANENT GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL RESULT
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FROM ELECTIONS WITHIN A YEAR WILL HAVE NO COMMUNIST

OR SOCIALIST REPRESENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT SPINOLA MAY 20 TO EXPRESS MY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PART OF THE USG AND AMERICAN PEOPLE ON HIS ASSUMPTION OF PRESIDENCY AND TO CONVEY AMERICAN SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE LINES OF POLICY HE HAS INAUGURATED. IN THE CONTEXT OF RUMORS CIRCULATING IN LISBON ABOUT CIA PLOTTING WITH EX-DGS MEMBERS TO LAUNCH A COUNTER-COUP, I ASSURED HIM THAT SUCH RUMORS WERE COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFICATION. ON THE LATTER POINT SPINOLA SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE TUMORS BUT THAT NO REASONABLE PERSON COULD GIVE ANY CREDIT TO SUCH RUMORS NOW THAT PORTUGAL HAD EMBARKED UPON THE FORMATION OF A DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE U.S. AND HAD ADOPTED A POLICY TOWARD PORTUGUESE AFRICA IN LINE WITH WHAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN ADVOCATING FOR YEARS.

2. SPINOLA ASSURED ME THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO EVEN CLOSER AND FRIENDLIER RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES THAN HAD OBTAINED IN THE PAST. REFERRING TO SOME UNCERTAINTIES AMONG FOREIGN OBSERVERS ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION, FEARS PARTICULARLY STIMULATED BY THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, HE ASSURED ME THAT PORTUGAL IS FAR FROM HEADING TOWARDS COMMUNISM. PORTUGAL IS DETERMINED TO HAVE A FULLY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, BUT THE LIMITATIONS ON THE ACTIONS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ON ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES INHERENT IN THE ARMED FORCES PROGRAM WILL BE FIRMLY MAINTAINED. WHEN ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITHIN A YEAR, SPINOLA EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT PORTUGAL WILL PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT IT IS NOT A COMMUNIST COUNTRY. HE STATED HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE FUTURE PERMANENT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE NEITHER COMMUNISTS NOR SOCIALISTS IN IT. WHEN QUESTIONED HE REPEATED "NOR SOCIALISTS".

3. I EXPRESSED MY FEELING THAT THE USG UNDERSTOOD THE
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REASONS WHICH REQUIRED INCLUSION OF A BROAD SPECTRUM WITHIN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. I NOTED THE NERVOUSNESS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN LISBON RESULTING FROM STRIKES AND EXTREME DEMANDS OF WORKERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO MANAGEMENT CHANGES. SPINOLA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LABOR DEMANDS REPRESENTED A SERIOUS PROBLEM BUT ASKED FOR PATIENCE AND INDICATED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROBLEMS WOULD

BE WORKED OUT.
SCOTT

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